



Clean Energy Future Committee

October 25, 2019

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Arlington Town Hall, Lyons Hearing Room

These minutes were approved at the November 22, 2019 meeting

Members present: Jim DiTullio (by phone), Shelly Dein, Pasi Miettinen, Ken Pruitt, Dave Levy, Marc Breslow, Emily Sullivan, Adam Chapdelaine, Dan Amstutz, Coralie Cooper.

Members not present: Nellie Aikenhead, Ryan Katofsky, Dan Dunn.

The Meeting Convened at 8:04 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes from 9/27/2019 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Pruitt shared a timeline for research from other municipalities for the CEFC to evaluate in its effort to produce a Net Zero Plan.

Miettinen Presentation on High-Impact GHG Mitigation Measures

Mr. Miettinen presented a framework for how to think about the impact of greenhouse gas mitigation measures. Mr. Miettinen noted that in Belmont, which is similar to Arlington, approximately 40% of emissions come from homes, 40% come from vehicles, and 20% from other (including non-residential buildings). He calculated that, to reach net zero emissions by 2050, Arlington would need to retrofit 1 building a day to become net zero, and to replace approximately 4 gasoline vehicles a day with electric vehicles. However, Mr. Miettinen stated only approximately 60 residential buildings get weatherized a year. Based on current rates, only 3.6% of carbon emissions from buildings will be reduced over the next 30 years, which Mr. Miettinen noted would not be much of an impact.

There was a discussion about how to account for solar production in town. How should the town think about solar from a net zero perspective given that Eversource retains the renewable energy certificates (RECs)? Solar has a benefit, but we need to make sure it is accounted for correctly in the town's greenhouse gas inventory.

There are other options that could be explored, Mr. Miettinen stated. For example a net zero energy home would deliver a significant result.

Adding electrification, weatherization, and solar, it is possible to get to zero emissions buildings. However, Mr. Miettinen stated there are catches.

One catch is that it is impossible to change building foundations in non-conforming lots. Without the ability to replace foundations, it is much harder to make a home net zero energy, because so much heat is lost through older foundation technologies.

In addition, pricing for heat pumps is also very expensive. This is a big barrier from going from gas and oil to an electrified house.

The discussion then turned to a question of priorities: What should be our priorities?

Mr. Amstutz noted that the Committee should think about mobility and vehicles and noted that scooters, bikes and other technology should be examined as future green mobility solutions.

Mr. Pruitt questioned how much precision the Town should have over 30 years? For example, should the Town have specific goals for the next three years as well as overarching policy goals for the remaining 27?

There was consensus that the discussion in the Committee was very productive, and that more discussion about how to set carbon mitigation priorities was needed. The Committee asked Mr. Pruitt to explore dates for a 3-4 hour Committee retreat for this discussion, either in November or in January/February.

The Next Meeting is on November 22, 2019

The Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Submitted by Dave Levy.